

1955

ST. ALBANS CITY
AND
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

FOR THE YEAR

1955

ST. ALBANS:
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1956

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

ST. ALBANS CITY

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Councillor T. T. Jarman (*Vice-Chairman*)
Alderman J. Baum
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ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ST. ALBANS CITY : *Staff*—

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.
 Chief Sanitary Inspector
 Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

C. A. BAILEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.
 Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector
 Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

F. H. A. BURTON, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
 Sanitary Inspector
 Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
 (Resigned May, 1955)

D. A. McLAREN, M.S.I.A.
 Sanitary Inspector
 Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
 (Resigned June, 1955)

L. A. CROFT, M.S.I.A.
 Sanitary Inspector
 Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
 (Appointed July, 1955)

C. W. McHUGO, F.R.I.C.
 Public Analyst (Part Time)

MRS. K. F. JAMES
 Secretary

MISS I. V. YOUNG
 Clerk (Resigned October, 1955)

R. H. FOX
 Sanitary Assistant

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL : *Staff*—

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
 Senior Sanitary Inspector
 Cleansing Superintendent

W. A. BEERE, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
 Sanitary Inspector

A. G. PAINE
 Chief Clerk

MRS. D. G. BURTON
 Shorthand Typist

ARTHUR HOWE
 Cleansing Foreman

Health Department,
15, Hatfield Road,
St. Albans.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans
and the Chairman and Councillors of the St. Albans Rural
District Council.*

MR. MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the City of St. Albans and the St. Albans Rural District for 1955.

Generally speaking, I am pleased to report that the health of the City and Rural District remained at a high level throughout the year. The incidence of infectious diseases was low, except for Measles, which followed its usual two-year high wave, but although there were many cases they were all of a mild nature, except one case.

It is disappointing to find the immunisation rate for Diphtheria and Whooping Cough considerably lower than last year, but this was due entirely to a prolonged outbreak—though with few cases—of Poliomyelitis. During this outbreak we had to discontinue immunisation against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record my sincere thanks for the consideration and help you have at all times shown to me, and to my staff I wish to record my sincere thanks for their able and conscientious performance of their duties.

I am also deeply indebted to the chief clerk, secretary and staff in the Divisional Health Office for their assistance in preparation of the statistics for this report and for the many extra duties carried out by them during the year, which were actually outside their Divisional Health Office duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

	St. Albans City	S. Albans R.D.C.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	45,310	30,200
Area (in acres)	5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books :—		
Dwelling Houses	13,627	7,507
Shops with living accommodation	317	86
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	77	64
TOTAL	14,021	7,657
Rateable Value	£469,596	£210,212

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate ...	323	367	690	235	209	444
Illegitimate ...	16	16	32	8	6	14
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...		15.93			15.16	
Stillbirths	5	8	13	10	4	14
Deaths	221	247	468	232	345	577
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		10.32			19.10	

Deaths from Pregnancy,**Child Birth, Abortion**

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)
—	—	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age

	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	9	11	3	4	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births		15.23			15.28	
Combined Rate			15.25			
Neonatal Death Rate		11.08			13.10	

The following Table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rates since 1947.

Year	DEATH RATE		BIRTH RATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE	
	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
1947	12.6	9.2	17.9	16.5	33.0	54.0
1948	10.2	6.98	17.2	14.54	19.2	18.1
1949	11.5	8.2	18.2	14.8	13.1	22.2
1950	11.3	7.7	16.3	13.2	33.3	22.5
1951	12.0	7.7	16.4	13.3	27.6	29.1
1952	10.6	6.8	16.5	12.8	27.1	8.1
1953	11.52	18.05	15.60	14.46	29.87	28.64
1954	10.83	17.74	15.43	14.48	18.54	16.59
1955	10.32	19.10	15.93	15.16	15.23	15.28
1902	10.9		21.4		67.4	
1901	13.0		21.6		135.4	

Causes of Death

					St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.				
					M.	F.	M.	F.			
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	1	3	1		
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	1	—		
3.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	3	—		
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—	1		
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	6	7	6	3	Cancer 152	
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	13	2	11	2		
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	9	—	7		
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	6	—	—		
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	...	...	...	21	30	12	17		
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	2	2	—		
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	4	2	3		
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	28	41	25	39	Heart Disease 352	
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	39	28	39	32		
19.	Hypertension	...	...	...	10	8	8	21		
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	23	37	28	79		
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	11	7	15	18		
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1	2	6		
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	18	16	22	59		
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	12	7	7	4		
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	5	2	7	4		
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	6	4	3	2		
27.	Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	2	1	3		
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	1	—	1		
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	5	—		
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	—	2	2		
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	9	20	18	33		
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	2	4	—		
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	5	8	5	4		
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	6	2	1	4		
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS					221	247	232	345	1,045		

Once again, the greatest single cause of death was, excluding heart disease, cancer. "Heart Disease" was chiefly a normal termination of life in old age—something which is inevitable, and most of the 352 cases would be more reasonably classified as "Old Age."

Vital Statistics, 1955 — England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

Births

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	15.0
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and still births)	23.1

Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.7
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	24.9
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) ..	0.64
Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	17.3

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1955

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1955 are as follows :

	NUMBER			RATE		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4,174	1,664	5,838	195	72	131
Other Tuberculosis ...	361	294	655	17	13	15
Cancer of lung and bronchus	14,820	2,451	17,271	693	106	389
Other cancer	33,339	40,727	74,066	1,559	1,767	1,667

ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY

(Combined figures for two authorities).

Cause of Death.	AGE AT DEATH									
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	10	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Congenital Malformations	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Difficult Labour	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
All Causes	12	—	1	—	13	1	2	1	—	17

It will be noted that Premature Birth accounted for ten out of the seventeen cases.
 All of these ten cases lived under a week, many of them only a matter of a few hours.

Section B**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA****Welfare Centres and Clinics****Bricket Wood — The Social Club, Oak Avenue**

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.
(Dr. attends 2nd.)

Minor Ailments treated between 8.30 and 9 a.m. at Nurse's Cottage,
139, Mount Pleasant Lane. (Telephone: Garston 2183.)

Colney Heath — The Pavilion

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30—4 p.m.
Minor Ailments treated in children's own homes or at local school.

Harpenden — Memorial Hospital (Harpenden 3696)

Ante-Natal - - Mondays, 2—4 p.m.
Orthopaedic - Saturdays, a.m. (Surgeon attends once monthly.)

40, Luton Road (Harpenden 40)

Ophthalmic - 1st and 3rd Mondays, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.
(By appointment.)
Minor Ailments - Wednesdays, 9 a.m.—12 noon (Dr. attends).
Speech Therapy - Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.45—4.30 p.m.
Dental - - Mondays, 2—4 p.m.;
Thursdays, 10.30 a.m.—12 noon; 2—4 p.m. (By
appointment.)

Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1.45—4.30 p.m.

London Colney — Primary School, Alexander Road

Minor Ailments - Fridays, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.
(Dr. attends 2nd and 4th.)
Infant Welfare - Thursdays, 1.45—4.30 p.m.

Redbourn — Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30—4.30 p.m.
Minor Ailments treated 8.15—8.30 a.m., and 6.15—6.45 p.m. at nurse's
residence, 18, Bettespool Meadows. (Redbourn 251.)

St. Albans — Village Hall, Park Street

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1.30—4 p.m.

St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road

Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2—4 p.m.

Mandeville J.M.I. School

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.

Margaret Wix Health Annexe — High Oaks (St. Albans 56994)

Infant Welfare - Wednesdays, 1.30—4 p.m.
Speech Therapy - Mondays, 9.30—12.30 p.m.
Thursday, 9.30—12.30 p.m.
Dental - - Tuesday a.m. (2nd and 4th in month).*
Wednesday a.m. (1st and 3rd in month).*
Thursday p.m. (weekly).*
Friday a.m. and p.m. (weekly).*
Saturday a.m. (alternate).*
(* By appointment.)

Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St. Albans 55002 and 54926)

- Immunisation and Minor Ailment - Mondays, 9 a.m.—12 noon.
(Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)
- Dental - - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Saturdays, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon (alternate).
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 2—5 p.m.
- Orthoptic - - Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.—12 noon; 2—4.30 p.m.
- Ophthalmic - - Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon;
Monday, 1.30 p.m.—3.30 p.m.
- Speech - - Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1.30—4.30 p.m.
- Ante-Natal - - Wednesday, 9.30—11.30 a.m.
Monday, 2—4.30 p.m. (Midwives session).
- Infant Welfare - Tuesday and Friday, 1.30—4 p.m.
(Dr. attends Friday.)
Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

Bricket House, Bricket Road (St. Albans 55431)

- Orthopaedic - Monday, Wednesday, Friday, all day.
Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 2nd Friday, p.m.

Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 52211)

- V.D. (Women) - Tuesday, 5—7 p.m.; Friday, 2—4 p.m.
- V.D. (Men) - Tuesday, 5—7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.—12 noon.
- Post Natal - Wednesday, 11 a.m.
- Chest Clinic - Tuesday, 10.30 a.m. (children).
Monday, 2 p.m. (St. Albans Patients).

Hill End Hospital (St. Albans 55555)

- Child Guidance - Mondays to Fridays a.m. and p.m.

Sandridge — The Parish Hall

- Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30—3.30 p.m.
- Minor Ailments treated between 4 and 5 p.m. at nurse's residence, 2, Reynolds Crescent (St. Albans 54985) or in children's own home if necessary.

Shenley

- Minor Ailments treated at school.

Wheathampstead — Mead Hall, East Lane

- Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30—4 p.m.
Dr. attends 3 p.m.
- Minor Ailments treated 8.30—9 a.m. at nurse's residence, Inez Cottage, Luton Road. (Wheathampstead 3123.)

National Health Service Act

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services administered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford. I need only mention the Home Help Service, Ambulance Service and supervision of County Council Cars.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my Local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work, especially in what is my most difficult job, assessing medical points for housing applications.

Every ambulance journey exceeding 50 miles outwards has to be sanctioned by me as Divisional Medical Officer, and I can assure you that the case is investigated very carefully indeed before consent is given.

Ambulance Service

I am indebted to Divisional Officer R. Hughes for the following information :

District of St. Albans Year ending 31st December, 1955

Appended are the details of calls dealt with during the last year. Substantial increases are again evident.

			Ambulance	Utilicon	Total	Increase and Decrease over 1954
Accidents	...	...	658	12	670	+ 86
Sudden Illness	...	...	204	5	209	+ 25
Maternity	...	...	419	—	419	+ 29
Removals	...	...	9,586	10,747	20,333	+ 3,805
Mileage	...	...	57,087	79,676	136,763	+ 14,390

These figures once again show a very considerable increase in the demand made on the Ambulance Service,

Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. E. J. Burgess, Secretary, Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information :—

The allocation of beds is as follows :

	St Albans City Hospital
Surgical	87
Medical	66
Orthopaedic	20
Paediatric	25
Chronic Sick	76
Maternity	23
Gynaecological	28
Chest	31
Infectious Diseases	18
<i>Private Wing :</i>	
Section 5 Patients	4
Section 4 Beds	6
	<hr/>
TOTAL ...	384

School Medical Service

This service continues to work very smoothly, due largely to the help and co-operation received from Head Teachers. I have been very impressed by the interest taken by parents and in about 75% of the examinations, one of the parents has been present.

The innovation of calling parents up when their children are re-examined following a defect found at a previous examination has proved to be very valuable and is, I believe, thoroughly appreciated by the parents. The attendance of parents at such examinations is very good indeed. It was considered that this might overload the School Medical Officers, in that it would possibly take more time to deal with each individual case, but in practice we find that by calling the parents we do not have to call the children so often and this fully balances the apparent disadvantage.

Milk and Meals in Schools

These are of a very high standard and a well worth while investment. Washing facilities appear adequate in most cases and food preparation rooms and kitchens clean, though space is often limited.

Health Visiting

There are seventeen nurses doing health visiting in the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Nursing Homes and Old People's Homes

There are five Registered Nursing Homes in this area, and 9 Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Drainage and Sewerage

See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths in the area—one in the City and two in the Rural District—have at all times been well maintained. Continuous filtration and chlorination is carried out at all three and the bacteriological results which are checked frequently throughout the summer, have proved very satisfactory.

Public Baths

These have been going now for over four years and undoubtedly provide a much needed service. I have always emphasized that this service is a Public Health service and cannot be expected to be financially self-supporting, but the increasing numbers using the baths suggest that the gap between income and expenditure will decrease, but it will, I am sure, never close. To put up the charges would, I feel sure, increase not decrease the gap.

Mortuary

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary :

Adult—Males	...	...	...	...	46
Females	...	...	...	...	25
Children—Males	...	...	...	...	2
Females	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Post Mortems	...	...	...	...	75

General Nutrition

Poor nutrition is rare and often is the result of fussing parents indulging in food fads. Underweight children often are of small birth weight, or have small parents.

Nursing in the Home

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home and where a request is made personally or at the request of the doctor in attendance.

Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Herts County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over school age within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Office staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors, midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations, but these requests must be backed up by a medical or nurse's certificate. No one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular. So much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the home help that is desired because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas—Easter when, of course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

In the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire County Council, 696 persons availed themselves of this service.

Section D

HOUSING

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the two Councils. Both use a points scheme and in addition, all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to me as Medical Officer of Health. I have the power to allocate additional points on medical grounds without disclosing my reason for doing so. In extreme cases I also have the power of giving absolute priority, but this power I am very unwilling to use as, of course, if this power were abused it would ruin the whole points scheme, with which I am completely in favour.

The duty thus imposed on me is a very difficult one, and I have no doubt that on occasions I shall make mistakes, but I can assure both Councils that I shall do my utmost to make their housing scheme work as fairly as is humanly possible, bearing in mind the very large and urgent demand for houses.

Points are allotted independently of me for such conditions as overcrowding. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the Housing points scheme.

Surveys have been carried out under the 1954 Housing Rent and Repairs Act, and certain figures have been laid before the Minister during August, 1955. These are set out below.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 : PARTS II AND III

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 : Section 1

Required Form of Proposals

Local Authority : St. Albans Rural District Council.

County : Hertfordshire.

Total No. of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area ... 7,224

Part 1. The total problem.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) | 171 |
| (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i) | 10 |

Part 2. Orders already made, etc.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority | 7 |
| (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative | NIL |

Part 3.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years | NIL |
| (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister | NIL |
| (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954, for temporary accommodation | NIL |
| (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years | 6 |
| (ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 | 128 |

I am afraid the Act, like many other Acts, may well produce results by no means intended by Parliament. In this area, there are a great number of houses let at rents, including rates, of anything from 5/- to 10/- per week, with a gross annual value of under £10. Now the maximum increase in rent permitted under the Act after full repairs have been carried out is up to twice the annual gross rateable value and no more. Taking the instance of a house with an annual gross rateable value of £10, this means that the rent can only be increased to a maximum of £20 per annum, whereas the cost of repairs to bring the house up to the necessary standard may well amount to £200.

It is not difficult to see that owners are, to put it mildly, reluctant to spend a sum even approaching such a figure when they would not get it back within a reasonable time. They, not unnaturally, reply to the request for carrying out such repairs "Make a Demolition Order—I am not going to spend any more money on this house!" Yet such houses are by no means always impossible of repair. Many, however, are in such a condition that it would be physically impossible to carry out these repairs whilst the tenants are in occupation. It is necessary, therefore, for the Councils to re-house such people whilst the repairs are being carried out. The owner then has vacant possession. He carries out the repairs, plus in some cases, improvements, and can then sell the house with vacant possession at a reasonable profit to himself. This may sound unfair to the Local Authority, but I would point out that by doing so, they still have the house instead of a Demolition Order which would require re-housing in any case.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Total No. of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organisms or Other Agents Responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
—	11	—	Salmonella Typhimurium 5 Unknown 6	—

After most careful investigation it was impossible to trace the cause of these cases contracting food poisoning. This is only to be expected in dealing with such small numbers.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1955

			St. Albans City Notified	Deaths	St. Albans R.D.C. Notified	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	14	—	31	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	167	—	47	—
Measles ...	...	...	952	—	488	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	9	—	6	—
Erysipelas ...	...	...	6	—	1	—
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	8	—	3	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	...	...	3	—	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	3	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	...	...	1	—	4	—
„ (Non Paralytic)			7	—	5	—
Dysentery ...	...	...	2	—	81	—
Acute Encephalitis ...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1955

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
St. Albans City ...	186 (176)	107 (103)	26 (22)	19 (19)	338 (320)
St. Albans R.D.	134 (129)	108 (97)	13 (15)	20 (19)	275 (260)
TOTALS ...	320 (305)	215 (200)	39 (37)	39 (38)	613 (580)

Figures at 31.12.54 are in brackets.

The increases are, I believe, due to more intensive search for cases, e.g. Mass Radiography, and the better co-operation of other Local Authorities in notifying to us their cases moving into our district. I do not think the disease is, in fact, increasing.

Smallpox

There were no cases during 1955.

Vaccination

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Re-vaccinated) during 1955 :						
Age at 31st December —	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 & over	Total
Number vaccinated ...	884	48	28	29	21	1,010
Number Re-vaccinated ...	—	—	4	22	62	88
Number of cases specially reported during period (age groups as above) ...						NIL
Number of births registered for the St. Albans Division						1,841
Primary vaccination rate per 1,000 births ...						54.9

Of the total number of primary vaccinations (1,010), 409 were done at County Council Clinics.

The primary vaccination rate of 54.9 per 100 births is quite good, but it could be better.

I strongly advocate vaccination before the age of 1 year when the risks involved are negligible. Many people in later life find they must be vaccinated either to travel abroad or take up some employment where vaccination is insisted upon. The risks in vaccination in later years are much greater, except when the primary vaccination has been done in infancy.

The great increase in air travel has also increased the risk of smallpox being brought into the country, as a case may be infected in, say, Egypt or India, and be here before the onset of the disease, whereas previously, by surface transport, the time involved in the journey ensured that the disease became apparent before landing in the United Kingdom.

Diphtheria

There were no cases reported in 1955.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a Full Course for Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1955 :

Age at date of final injection		Total
Under 5	5-15	
1,246	119	1,365

Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to a complete full course) :

715

Number of births registered for the same area ...	...	1,841
Primary immunisation rate per 100 births ...	...	74.1

The numbers shown above include 702 children who received primary combined Whooping Cough—Diphtheria immunisation injections and 96 children who received re-inforcing combined injections.

Whooping Cough

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1955 :

Age at date of final injection		Total
Under 5	5-15	
1,134	42	1,176

These figures include 702 children who received a primary immunisation with a combined Whooping Cough-Diphtheria vaccine.

Several cases of Whooping Cough have occurred in children who have been immunised, but all such cases have been very mild indeed. We do not claim that whooping cough immunisation

prevents whooping cough to anything like the extent that diphtheria immunisation prevents diphtheria, but it will prevent altogether the disease in many cases and in others, turn what is a very long, distressing and sometimes fatal disease into what could fairly be called a "Minor Ailment."

We are now satisfied that the combined vaccine (Whooping Cough-Diphtheria) is safe and effective. In fact, in that it is given subcutaneously instead of intramuscularly, I believe it to be safer.

I think it might be profitable for me to set down the recommended periods for all immunisation procedure, including vaccination. They are as follows :

Primary vaccination against Smallpox at 3 months of age.

First combined injection against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria at 4 months of age.

Second injection at 5 months and third at 6 months.

The third combined injection may be postponed to 12 months.

**ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**

COUNCIL OFFICES,
43, Upper Lattimore Road,
St. Albans.

May 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1955.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies of the area continue to receive close attention and a total of 37 samples were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

It has not been found possible to bring the statistics relating to water supplies up to date and the Tables shown in the following pages relate to the circumstances as at December 1954.

List of Water Suppliers operating in the St. Albans Rural District
and number of dwellings supplied by each

SUPPLIER	Number of dwellings supplied		TOTALS
	Direct to the Houses	By means of Standpipes	
St. Albans Rural District Council :—			
Redbourn Undertaking	902	24	926
Tyttenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply)	41	10	51
St. Albans Waterworks Company	3,627	19	3,646
Harpenden Water Company	1,110	85	1,195
The Barnet District Water Company	482	19	501
The Colne Valley Water Company	291	2	293
Borough of Hemel Hempstead	36	—	36
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company	30	—	30
Hill End Hospital and Cell Barnes Colony Estate	119	—	119
Napsbury Hospital Estates	49	—	49
Harperbury Hospital Estate...	35	—	35
Gorhambury Estate and adjacent Crown Property (Plant operated by Crown Commissioners)	69	—	69
Childwickbury Estate, St. Albans	58	—	58
TOTALS	6,849	159	7,008

WATER SUPPLIES

Details of dwellings in each Parish supplied from Waterworks

PARISH	Water Undertakers supplying in each Parish	Number of dwellings supplied		Total number of dwellings in each Parish (excluding temporary buildings)
		Direct to the Houses	By means of Standpipes	
Sandridge	St. Albans Waterworks Company ... Harpenden Water Company ...	613 15	19 1	692
Wheathampstead	Harpenden Water Company ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	999 1	78 —	1,100
Harpenden Rural	Harpenden Water Company ... St. Albans Rural District Council	94 5	6 —	118
Redbourn	St. Albans Rural District Council ... Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) ... Borough of Hemel Hempstead ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	897 25 13 8	24 — — —	993
St. Michael's Rural	Borough of Hemel Hempstead ... St. Albans Waterworks Company ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ... Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) ... Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co.	23 34 49 44 17	— — — — —	210
St. Stephen's	The Colne Valley Water Company ... St. Albans Waterworks Company ... Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co. ... Harperbury Hospital Estate Supply ...	236 1,537 13 16	— — — —	1,822

WATER SUPPLIES (continued) Details of dwellings in each Parish supplied from Waterworks

PARISH	Water Undertakers supplying in each Parish	Number of dwellings supplied		Total number of dwellings in each Parish (excluding temporary buildings)
		Direct to the Houses	By means of Standpipes	
London Colney	St. Albans Waterworks Company	1,266	—	1,416
	The Colne Valley Water Company	55	2	
	Harperbury Hospital Estate Supply	19	—	
	Napsbury Hospital Estate Supply	49	—	
	Hill End Hospital Supply	19	—	
Colney Heath	Tyttenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital supply)	41	10	831
	St. Albans Waterworks Company	179	—	
	The Barnet District Water Company	482	19	
	Hill End Hospital Supply	100	—	

SWIMMING BATHS

There are two swimming baths not under the Council's management which are open to the public and in respect of which a charge is made for admission. Under an arrangement between the Education Authority and the Proprietors they are used extensively by the schools. At each the system of continuous circulation and purification of the water is operated. Close supervision was exercised throughout the season and a total of 30 samples of the waters were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

By agreement with the manager a swimming pool which is maintained in connection with a private recreation club and used by a considerable number of members was sampled regularly throughout the summer.

HOUSING

1.	Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
2.	Number of demolition or closing orders made :—							
	(a) demolition orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
	(b) closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
3.	Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section 3 of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
4.	Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

On the 31st December, 1955 the following three houses which are the subjects of demolition or clearance orders were being used under licence for human habitation :—

9, Park Lane, Colney Heath.

Two wooden cottages at Lower Gustard Wood,
Wheathampstead,

I am indebted to Miss C. I. Sharpe, the Council's Housing Officer for the following Housing Statistics:—

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COUNCIL AT 31st DECEMBER, 1955.					ANALYSIS SHOWING HOUSING PROGRESS FROM JANUARY 1st TO DECEMBER 31st, 1955.		
PARISH	Pre-war houses	Post-war houses	Acquired Properties	TOTAL	New houses completed in 1955	No. of properties vacated in 1955 other than by transfer	No. of families re-housed in 1955
LONDON COLNEY ...	100	356	3	459	—	7	23
REDBOURN ...	128	126	—	254	6	6	13
ST. STEPHENS ...	34	198	—	232	—	5	18
COLNEY HEATH ...	108	68	—	176	18	3	18
SANDRIDGE ...	54	130	—	184	36	2	17
WHEATHAMPSTEAD	90	173	4	267	22	11	25
ST. MICHAELS ...	16	—	—	16	—	—	1
HARPENDEN RURAL	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
CITY AREA ...	—	—	3	3	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	530	1051	10	1591	82	34	116

Table showing the number of occupied moveable dwellings in the District at December, 1955,
the number of sites used by them and the services available thereat.

PARISH	Total number of occupied moveable dwellings stationed in the district at December, 1955	Number of sites on which these moveable dwellings are stationed	Maximum number of occupied moveable dwellings on any one site	Number of sites with main drainage	Number of sites where foul drainage is disposed of in cesspools	Number of sites provided with watercloset sanitation	Number of sites served by a readily accessible mains water supply
London Colney ...	29	7	20	4	—	4	7
St. Stephens ...	89	33	25	5	—	6	31
St. Michaels ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redbourn ...	27	8	16	2	1	2	7
Harpenden Kural...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wheathampstead ...	21	13	4	2	1	4	8
Sandridge ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
Colney Heath ...	54	16	31	1	2	2	11
TOTAL ...	221	78	—	14	4	18	65

NUISANCES

Seventy-eight complaints of alleged nuisances were received and suitable action taken in each case. In no instance was it found necessary to serve statutory notices to secure abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936 — Section 50 — Overflowing or Leaking Cesspools

Three informal notices and eight formal notices were served in relation to cesspools the contents of which were overflowing or which were known to soak. The cesspools concerned serve buildings which are within easy reach of a public sewer and most of the owners have taken or are taking the necessary measures to connect the properties to the sewer.

REPLACEMENT OF PAIL CLOSETS BY WATERCLOSETS

The Council continued their policy of making contributions under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 towards the expenses reasonably incurred by owners of buildings in the execution of necessary works in connection with the replacement of pail closets by waterclosets.

During the year 32 pail closets were replaced. Replacements during each of the preceding four years were as follows :—

1954	...	...	...	37
1953	...	...	...	75
1952	...	...	...	54
1951	...	...	...	52

RODENT CONTROL (Period 1st April, 1955 to 31st March, 1956)

	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agricultural (3)	All other (including business premises) (4)	Total (5)
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	5	7,507	230	229	7,971
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the three months ended 31st March, 1956 as a result of					
(a) notification	(a) —	231	—	13	244
(b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949... ..	(b) 4	365	119	60	548
(c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	(c) 1	401	—	45	447
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats	3	388	12	20	423
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by mice	—	—	—	—	—
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	3	388	Nil	11	402

REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Fifty-four premises are registered in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice cream and preserved food, etc. Of these, forty-two are registered for the sale of ice cream and two are registered for both the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

From the table in Appendix 1 on page 35 to this Report it will be noted that the total number of food premises in the district is 204.

MILK

The following table gives details of current registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Premises registered	Persons carrying on the trade of Milk Distributors elsewhere than at or from a Dairy Farm		
	From shops in the St. Albans Rural District.	From premises within the St. Albans Rural District not being shop premises.	From premises outside the St. Albans Rural District.
Dairy Premises other than Dairy Farms.			
11	6	5	9

The following tables give details of licenses granted under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested."	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested."
5	11

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised."	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised."	Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised."	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised."
7	10	7	8

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
			Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	1	—	—
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	64	31	—	—
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	—	—	—
					36

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1			
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—			
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—			
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—			
Inefective drainage of floor (S.6)	—	—			
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—			
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	5			
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—			
TOTAL	7	6	Nil	Nil	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of animals for human consumption is carried out at two licensed slaughterhouses and details of the total number of animals slaughtered thereat during the year and of the condemnations are given in the following Tables. A one hundred per cent inspection was maintained throughout.

I am indebted to Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, Chief Sanitary Inspector, City of St. Albans, and his staff for co-operating in this onerous duty.

Animals Slaughtered

Premises		Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Sandridge Slaughterhouse : By Messrs. Sandridge Slaughter House Ltd. ...		1,299	458	385	2,265	3,648	8,055
Slaughterhouse at Station Road, Wheathampstead in the occupation of Mr. W. R. Simons... ..		399	—	60	1,037	850	2,346
TOTALS		1,698	458	445	3,302	4,498	10,401

Condemnnations

Class		Carcases and all offal thereof	Qtrs. of Beef	Heads	Lights	Livers	Liver Trimings (lbs.)	Plucks	Misc. pieces of Beef, Mutton & Pork (lbs)
Beasts ... ..	...	10	6	74	147	294	1,338	—	629
Calves ... ..	...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sheep ... ..	...	4	—	—	1	22	14	1	—
Pigs ... ..	...	8	—	37	12	45	6	17	—

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public cleansing is carried out by direct labour. The work includes refuse collection, night soil collection and cesspool emptying.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection is carried out by three teams of collectors, two of these teams operate with 25-cubic yards Dennis "Paxit Major" vehicles and the remaining team operates with a 10-cubic yards side-loading vehicle. The side-loading vehicle operates over the more sparsely populated parts of the district. Reserve vehicles are maintained to permit of regular servicing and to meet emergencies.

During the year difficulties were experienced in maintaining an adequate labour force and so in June an Incentive Bonus Scheme was introduced. In spite of some early difficulties the scheme has operated successfully and it is hoped and believed that it will overcome in a large degree the problem of recruiting and maintaining a sufficient number of men of the right type for this important work and at a moderate cost.

All household refuse is disposed of by tipping and a good standard of control is achieved by one man with suitable mechanical equipment.

Nightsoil Collection

Nightsoil emptying equipment is fitted to one of our Dennis cesspool emptiers and the work is carried out during normal daylight working hours with a driver-loader and one mate. The men engaged on it are paid a plus rate of one shilling per hour in respect of the hours engaged thereon.

Pails are cleansed at 280 dwelling houses. This figure shows a reduction of 42 or 12.77% compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1954 and a reduction of 269 or 49% compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1950.

Cleansing of Cesspools and the Disposal of Cesspool Contents

It will be noted from the statistical table in Appendix II on page 36 the number of cesspools which were being cleansed by the Council at the 31st December, 1955 shows a reduction of 103 or 15.77% on the number at the 31st December, 1954.

With few exceptions cesspool contents are discharged into sewers or at sewage disposal works.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID J. GRAHAM,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of Food Premises within the District

Type of Food Premises	London Colney	Colney Heath	St. Stephens	Wheat-hampstead	Red-bourn	Sardridge	St. Michaels	Harpenden Rural	TOTAL
1 Grocery & Provision Stores ...	5	6	10	8	11	2	—	1	43
2 Grocery, Provisions & Butcher ...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
3 Grocery, Provisions & Cafe ...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
4 Butchers	1	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	7
5 Baker's Shops	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	5
6 Bakeries	2	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	7
7 Sweets & Confectionery ...	2	—	1	4	2	—	—	—	9
8 Greengrocers & Fruiterers ...	4	1	2	2	2	—	—	—	11
9 Wet & Fried Fish	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
10 Cafes including Clubs and Licensed Restaurant ...	6	1	5	3	2	—	2	—	19
11 Factory Canteens	2	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	8
12 Schools and Institutions ...	4	1	2	3	4	3	—	—	17
13 Hospitals and Nursing Homes ...	3	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	9
14 Food Factory	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15 Licensed houses	7	9	8	16	10	5	2	1	58
TOTALS	42	22	36	45	39	14	4	2	204

Statistics respecting Cesspools in the District which were being cleansed by the Council at 31st December, 1955

APPENDIX II.

Parish (1)	Number cleansed on request (2)	Number cleansed at regular intervals (3)	Totals (the figures in brackets indicate the number at 31st December, 1954) (4)	Cesspools already included in Column 4 but in respect of which a charge is made for all cleansing because they are within 100 feet of a sewer. (5)	Cesspools already in- cluded in Column 4 and serving properties which are unlikely to have sewerage facilities for many years to come (6)
St. Stephen ...	73	—	73 (114)	17	56
London Colney ...	22	4	26 (24)	Nil	1
Colney Heath ...	129	8	137 (210)	37	27
Sandridge ...	21	—	21 (22)	Nil	21
Wheathampstead	144	3	147 (136)	Nil	133
Harpenden Rural	25	—	25 (27)	Nil	25
Redbourn ...	64	—	64 (64)	2	62
St. Michael's ...	54	2	57 (56)	Nil	40
TOTALS ...	532	17	550 (653)	56	365

